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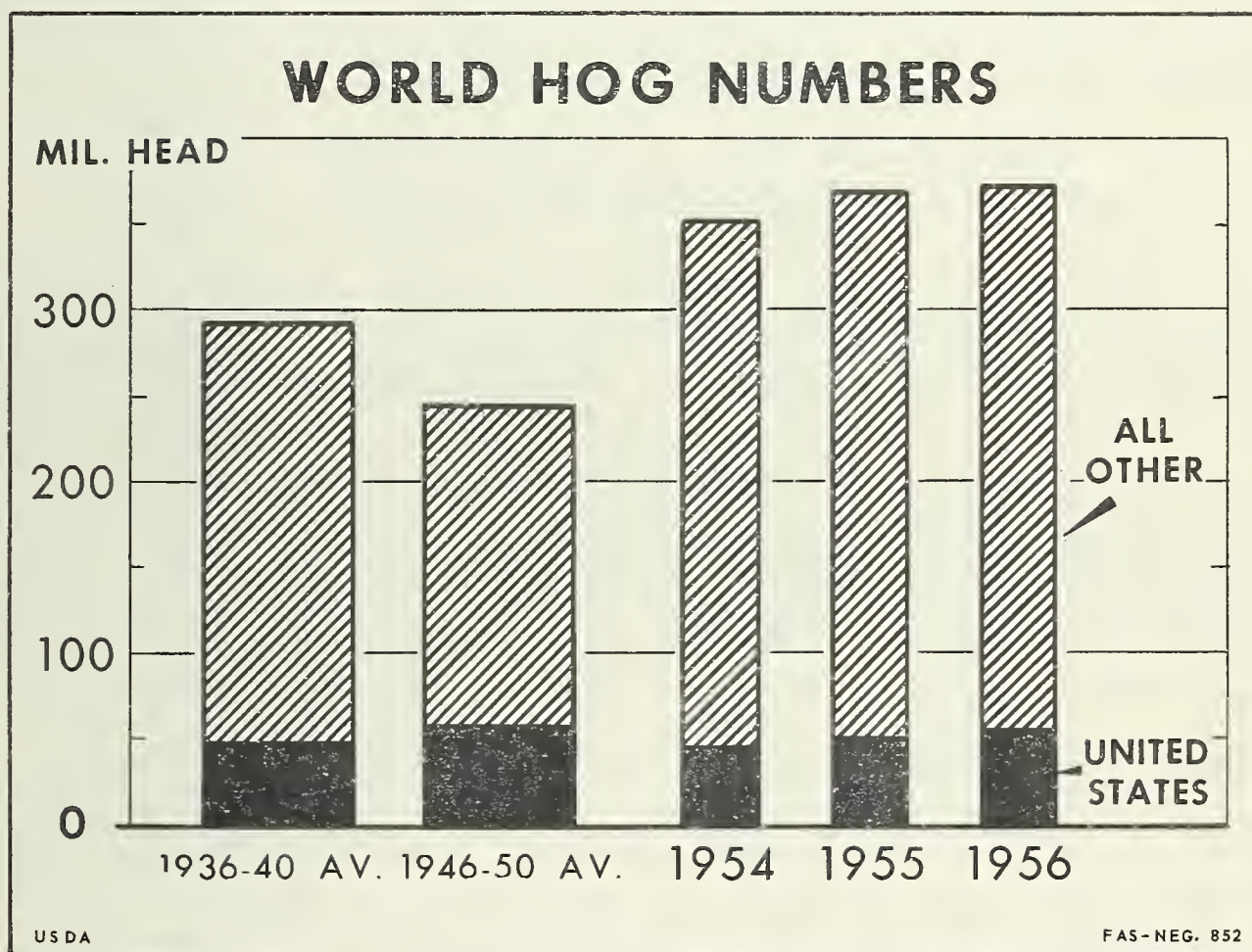
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WORLD HOG NUMBERS 1955 AND ESTIMATES FOR 1956



World hog numbers have increased sharply since World War II, particularly in Europe, establishing a new record. Numbers in the United States have increased in recent years but are still below the average for 1946-50.

World hog numbers increased slightly during 1955 to a new all-time high of 373 million or about 1 percent greater than a year earlier. The total is 27 percent greater than prewar and 52 percent above the low level of 1946-50, according to an annual review of numbers in important countries of the world.

World hog slaughter during 1956 will probably be about the same as a year earlier on the basis of the number of hogs. Slaughter in the second half of the year will depend partly upon the number of pigs saved in the spring of 1956 (Northern Hemisphere). Some reduction in the 1956 spring pig crop is indicated for the United States. However, production in Western Europe as a whole appears likely to continue large.

During 1955 hog numbers increased around 8 percent in North America and 1 percent in Europe, with all of the increase in Eastern Europe. Apparently there was little change in Africa, Asia and Oceania. Numbers decreased moderately in South America. They were maintained or may have increased again in the U.S.S.R. and Communist China.

HOGS: Estimated world total, by continent or area, averages 1936-40 and 1946-50, annual 1955 and 1956

Continent or area	Average		1955 ^{1/}	1956 ^{1/}	Increase (+) or decrease (-)	
	1936-40	1946-50			1956 1936-40	1956 1955
	:	:	:	:	:	:
	:Thousands	:Thousands	:Thousands	:Thousands	:Percent	:Percent
North America	61,400	74,500	69,100	74,400	+21	+ 8
Europe	76,500	59,300	95,000	95,800	+25	+ 1
U.S.S.R.	32,300	13,000	--	--	--	--
Asia	86,300	58,300	102,700	102,800	+19	--
South America	31,300	33,900	45,600	43,200	+38	- 5
Africa	3,400	3,900	3,900	3,900	+15	--
Oceania	2,100	2,000	2,200	2,200	+ 5	--
Total	293,300	244,900	369,500	373,300	+27	+ 1

^{1/} Preliminary

Numbers in the United States increased 4.5 million head during 1955 and the total of 55 million head on farms January 1, 1956, was the largest for that date since 1952. On December 1, 1955 there were an estimated 6 million on Canadian farms, an increase of over 500,000 from a year earlier, and the largest for that date since 1944. Numbers have been increasing steadily in Mexico for several years. Hog production in Cuba is at low levels compared with former years.

Hog numbers in Western Europe remained relatively unchanged during 1955 but numbers continued to increase in Eastern Europe. There were increases in Austria, Belgium, France, Greece, Ireland, and The Netherlands. There was a decrease during 1955 in Denmark, and the United Kingdom.

In most years since the close of World War II hog numbers in Western Europe have increased steadily to reach a peak, during 1955 and 1956. It may be that this current high level is about the maximum that can be maintained with available feed supplies and still maintain production of other livestock and food crops at current levels. Further large increases in hog production in the area as a whole may be possible only under exceptional conditions when hog production is unusually profitable.

At present pork prices in the United States are below those in many countries of Western Europe and the United States could export to that area if it were not for trade barriers which restrict this trade. In some respects the current situation is comparable to prewar when the United States was a large surplus producer of pork. But the situation differs in that the European market is largely closed to the United States due to trade and sanitary restrictions.

Hog numbers are at high levels in Asia. It is believed that hog production in Communist China has increased materially in the past several years. Numbers are also at high levels in India, the Philippine Republic, South Korea and Indonesia. Numbers in Japan have been increasing also and at the present time are moderately above prewar. Numbers in Formosa declined materially in 1955.

Most of the decrease in hog numbers in South America during 1955 was in Brazil, which attained a large inventory at the beginning of 1955. Numbers in Venezuela probably have continued to increase steadily in recent years.

Africa produces few hogs because of its small grain production. Numbers in the Union of South Africa remain at relatively low levels and apparently have not changed much in the past several years. In the Belgian Congo hog production has increased markedly during that period. Numbers are at low levels in Madagascar and Tunisia.

Hog numbers in Australia in March 1955 were the largest for that date since 1946. The number in New Zealand in January 1956 was estimated to be the largest since 1942 but still below prewar.

HOOS: Number in Specified Countries, Averages 1936-40, 1946-50, Annual 1951-56

Continent and Country	Month of estimate	Average		1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
		1936-40	1946-50						
		Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
NORTH AMERICA									
Canada	Dec. 1	4,078	5,542	5,419	5,498	5,237	4,721	5,425	5,981
El Salvador	July	559	325	1/	419	—	—	—	—
Guatemala	July	213	394	—	—	—	—	—	—
Honduras	July	235	364	—	525	530	—	—	—
Mexico	June	2/	4,965	—	5,500	—	7,500	7,750	7,900
Nicaragua	—	3/	250	—	350	360	—	—	—
United States	Jan. 1	48,352	57,563	62,269	62,117	51,755	45,114	50,474	55,088
Cuba	Dec. 31	3/	1,730	1,800	—	—	1,340	1,365	1,395
Dominican Republic	June	2/	842	1,087	1,100	—	—	—	—
Estimated Total		61,400	74,500	79,900	78,800	69,500	62,700	69,100	74,400
EUROPE									
Austria	Dec. 3	3/	2,849	2,780	2,700	2,850	2,643	2,803	2,933
Belgium	Jan. 1	1/	1,005	1,234	1,427	1,382	1,255	1,334	1,452
Denmark	Jan.	—	2,997	3,616	3,229	3,906	4,456	4,806	4,331
Finland	June 15	6/	485	442	414	434	545	467	—
France	Oct. 1	1/	7,034	6,824	7,222	7,177	7,328	7,570	7,772
Germany, Western	Dec. 1	1/	12,660	11,890	13,603	12,979	12,435	14,525	14,593
Greece	Dec. 31	3/	532	568	635	603	603	620	640
Ireland	June	—	978	558	719	882	958	799	835
Italy	Jan. 1	—	3,700	4,055	3,512	4,215	4,368	3,745	—
Luxembourg	Dec. 1	1/	148	100	110	96	120	117	—
Netherlands	Dec. 1	1/	1,725	2,273	2,110	2,259	2,055	2,331	2,448
Norway	June 20	—	393	386	418	380	406	464	—
Portugal	Dec. 31	1/	1,206	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spain	Dec. 31	1/	4,944	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sweden	April	—	1,292	1,324	1,363	1,351	1,718	1,674	—
Switzerland	April	—	915	892	1,007	1,017	950	1,038	—
United Kingdom	June	—	4,380	3,891	4,962	5,165	6,251	5,854	—
Yugoslavia	Jan. 1	1/	3,238	3,911	3,990	4,520	4,310	—	—
Estimated Total		76,500	59,300	76,900	82,500	86,300	89,300	95,000	95,800
Western Europe		50,500	38,700	51,300	54,000	55,600	56,900	59,700	59,600
Other Europe		26,000	20,600	25,600	28,500	30,700	32,400	35,300	36,200
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	Jan. 1	4/	32,300	27,100	26,700	47,600	51,000	—	—

ASIA

British Malaya	Dec. 31	1/	746	397	504	525	550	560	560
Burma	May	2/	65,308	323	500	520	540	560	560
China	Jan. 1	1/	2,777	10/ 42,000	10/ 74,300	10/ 77,400	10/ 77,400	10/ 77,400	10/ 77,400
India	Dec. 31	1/	1,199	2/ 1,165	1,099	1,328	1,400	1,450	1,450
Indonesia	Feb. 1	1/	960	301	799	994	833	912	912
Japan	Dec. 31	1/	828	440	335	488	775	938	938
Korea - South	Jan. 1	1/	4,398	3,300	4,159	4,794	5,225	5,695	5,695
Philippine Islands	Dec. 31	1/	1,803	976	1,620	2,611	2,820	2,870	2,870
Taiwan (Formosa)	Dec. 31	1/	86,300	58,300	84,200	100,100	101,600	102,700	102,800
Estimated Total									

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina	July	3/	3,674	3,000	2,800	2,500	2,000	1,500	1,500
Brazil	Dec. 31	1/	23,224	24,400	26,059	30,916	32,721	35,556	33,000
Chile	June	3/	420	590	700	720	720	720	720
Colombia	Dec. 31	1/	1,572	2,092	2,782	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Ecuador	Dec. 31	1/	350	1,070	1,203	1,268	1,346	1,346	1,346
Peru	Dec. 31	1/	800	911	1,203	1,268	1,346	1,346	1,346
Uruguay	May	3/	373	258	259	275	260	235	235
Estimated Total									

AFRICA

Algeria	April	1/	58	140	103	88	83	83	83
Belgian Congo	Dec. 31	1/	162	200	176	261	324	324	324
Federation of Nyasaland and Rhodesias	Dec. 31	1/	209	244	197	228	272	272	272
French Morocco	Dec. 31	1/	644	68	84	64	64	64	64
Madagascar 12/	Dec. 31	1/	578	406	399	296	207	207	207
Mozambique	Dec. 31	1/	70	64	75	77	77	77	77
Angola	Dec. 31	1/	410	32	29	16	14	14	14
Tunisia	Dec. 31	1/	24	32	29	16	14	14	14
Union of South Africa	Aug.	3/	1,007	1,290	1,315	1,275	1,275	1,275	1,275
Estimated Total									

OCEANIA

Australia	Mar. 31	1/	1,242	1,255	1,134	993	1,197	1,297	1,297
New Zealand	Jan. 31	1/	753	548	564	628	649	681	695
Estimated Total									
Estimated World Total									

1/End of year estimates (October to December) included under following year for comparison and totals. Thus far Canada the December 1950 estimate of 5,419,000 is shown under 1951. 2/Preliminary. 3/Average for 2 to 4 years only. 4/Census or estimate for single year. 5/Official statistics; may be underestimates of actual numbers. 6/September. 7/June. 8/October. 9/Includes 22 provinces Manchuria and Sinkiang. Excludes outer Mongolia. 10/National estimate of China mainland. Excludes outer Mongolia. 11/Year 1934. 12/Number taxed only.

Compiled from official sources, reports of Agricultural Attaches and other United States representatives abroad and other information. Data for countries having changed boundaries relate to present territory. Totals include estimates for countries for which official statistics are unavailable. Foreign Agricultural Service. March 1956.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled articles on world agricultural production approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon reports of Agricultural Attaches and other U. S. representatives abroad.

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